What is claimed is:

allo2)

The rotary actuator having a permanently magnetized rotor (7) and a plurality of stator windings (1, 2, 3) surrounding the rotor (7) in a rim-like fashion for generating magnetic fields  $(B_1, B_{21}, B_{23}, B_3)$ , which place the rotor (7) in one of a first plurality of positions, wherein it has available to it means (11, 12, 13, 14) for exerting a corrective torque on the rotor (7), the means, in the currentless state of the stator windings (1, 2, 3), placing the rotor in a target position of a second plurality of positions  $(Z_1, Z_2, Z_3)$ , each position of the first plurality having assigned to it a target position.

- 2. The rotary actuator as recited in Claim 1, wherein the rotor (7) includes a magnet that is aligned so as to be perpendicular to the rotational axis (6).
- 3. The rotary actuator as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the stator windings (1, 2, 3) are arranged so as to be unpaired.
- 4. The rotary actuator as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the stator windings (1, 2, 3) are uniformly distributed around the axis (6) in the circumferential direction.
- 5. The rotary actuator as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the stator windings (1, 2, 3) are arranged on a ring core (5) that surrounds the rotor (7).

- 6. The rotary actuator as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the number of stator windings (1, 2, 3) is smaller than the number of first positions.
- 7. The rotary actuator as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the means for exerting a corrective torque (11, 12, 13, 14) are permanent magnets.
- 8. The rotary actuator as recited in one of the preceding claims, characterized by a network having n inputs  $(20_1, ..., 20_4)$  and m outputs  $(21_1, 21_2, 21_3)$ , n being the number of the first positions and m being the number of stator windings (1, 2, 3) and each stator winding (1, 2, 3) being connected to one output  $(21_1, 21_2, 21_3)$ , the network distributing to the stator windings (1, 2, 3) a current applied at one of inputs  $(20_1, ..., 20_4)$ , in order to set a first position that is assigned to the respective input.
- 9. The rotary actuator as recited in Claim 8, wherein the resistance of all n inputs  $(20_1, ..., 20_4)$  is the same.
- 10. The rotary actuator as recited in one of preceding claims, wherein it has three stator windings (1, 2, 3) and four first positions.
- 11. The rotary actuator as recited in Claim 10, wherein adjoining target positions  $(Z_1,...,Z_4)$  have an angular distance of 45°.
- 12. A rotary switch, characterized by a rotary actuator in accordance with one of the preceding claims.
- 13. The rotary switch as recited in Claim 12, wherein it is an "R"-type waveguide switch.